

HOUSE BILL 1227

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2lr2584
CF SB 293

By: **Delegates Busch, Kaiser, Branch, Conway, Cullison, Gilchrist, Haddaway–Riccio, Kach, Luedtke, McComas, McHale, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Olszewski, Reznik, S. Robinson, Rudolph, Stukes, Waldstreicher, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Core Content Areas – Accountability Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education and the State
4 Superintendent of Schools to assist each county board of education to establish
5 certain goals and objectives that conform with certain objectives for subject
6 areas that include science and social studies; requiring each public school to
7 survey current student achievement in science and social studies; requiring the
8 State Board and the State Superintendent to design and implement certain
9 assessment programs in certain subjects and requiring the social studies
10 assessment program to provide certain information; requiring certain grade
11 band assessments and end-of-course assessments to be implemented and
12 administered annually at certain levels by a certain school year; requiring
13 county boards of education to include certain information in the boards'
14 comprehensive master plans and updates to the plans; defining a certain term;
15 requiring the State Department of Education to develop and implement a
16 certain State specific assessment by a certain school year if a certain
17 determination is made regarding a certain middle school grade band
18 assessment; and generally relating to an education accountability program for
19 certain core content areas.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
21 Article – Education
22 Section 5–401(a) and (b)(1)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
26 Article – Education

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 5–401(c) and 7–203
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6 **Article – Education**

7 5–401.

8 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (2) “Local performance standards” means standards for student and
10 school performance developed by a county board.

11 (3) “Plan” means a comprehensive master plan.

12 (4) “State performance standards” means standards for student and
13 school performance approved by the State Board.

14 (5) “Update” means an annual update to a county board’s
15 comprehensive master plan.

16 (b) (1) Each county board shall develop and implement a comprehensive
17 master plan that describes the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to
18 improve student achievement and meet State performance standards and local
19 performance standards in each segment of the student population.

20 (c) The plan or update shall include:

21 (1) Goals and objectives as required under subsections (d) through (f)
22 of this section that are aligned with State performance standards and local
23 performance standards;

24 (2) Implementation strategies for meeting goals and objectives;

25 (3) Methods for measuring progress toward meeting goals and
26 objectives;

27 (4) Time lines for implementation of the strategies for meeting goals
28 and objectives;

29 (5) Time lines for meeting goals and objectives;

30 (6) A description of the alignment of the county board’s budget with
31 goals, objectives, and strategies for improving student achievement;

1 (7) The impact of the proposed goals, objectives, and implementation
2 strategies on public school facilities and capital improvements that may be needed to
3 implement the plan or update; [and]

4 **(8) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE COUNTY BOARD PLANS TO**
5 **ENSURE AND MEASURE THE ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY OF STUDENTS IN THE**
6 **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS LISTED IN § 7-203 OF THIS ARTICLE AT VARIOUS**
7 **POINTS DURING THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION OF THE**
8 **STUDENTS; AND**

9 **[(8)] (9)** Any other information required by the State
10 Superintendent.

11 7-203.

12 (a) The State Board, the State Superintendent, each county board, and each
13 public school shall implement a program of education accountability for the operation
14 and management of the public schools.

15 (b) **(1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “GRADE BAND ASSESSMENT” MEANS:**

16 **(I) ONE ASSESSMENT OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
17 **STUDENT’S KNOWLEDGE IN A SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREA DURING GRADES 3**
18 **THROUGH 5; AND**

19 **(II) ONE ASSESSMENT OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT’S**
20 **KNOWLEDGE IN A SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREA DURING GRADES 6 THROUGH 8.**

21 **(2)** The education accountability program shall include the following:

22 **[(1)] (I)** The State Board and the State Superintendent shall assist
23 each county board to establish educational goals and objectives that conform with
24 statewide educational objectives for subject areas including reading, writing, [and]
25 mathematics, **SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES;**

26 **[(2)] (II)** With the assistance of its county board, each public school
27 shall survey current student achievement in reading, language, mathematics,
28 **SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES,** and other areas to assess its needs;

29 **(III) 1. THE STATE BOARD AND THE STATE**
30 **SUPERINTENDENT SHALL IMPLEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS IN READING,**
31 **LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES THAT INCLUDE**
32 **WRITTEN RESPONSES;**

1 **2. THE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**
2 **REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

3 **A. PROVIDE INFORMATION NEEDED TO IMPROVE**
4 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY ENHANCING THE LEARNING GAINS OF STUDENTS AND**
5 **ACADEMIC MASTERY OF THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE SET FORTH IN THE**
6 **STATE'S ADOPTED CURRICULA OR COMMON CORE CURRICULA; AND**

7 **B. INFORM THE PUBLIC ANNUALLY OF THE**
8 **EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS MADE IN SOCIAL STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL, LOCAL**
9 **SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND STATE LEVELS; AND**

10 **3. BEGINNING IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR,**
11 **THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AND ADMINISTERED**
12 **ANNUALLY:**

13 **A. AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL, A**
14 **STATEWIDE, COMPREHENSIVE, GRADE BAND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM THAT**
15 **MEASURES THE LEARNING GAINS OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT TOWARDS**
16 **ACHIEVING MASTERY OF THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE COMMON CORE**
17 **CURRICULA;**

18 **B. AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL, A STATEWIDE,**
19 **COMPREHENSIVE, GRADE BAND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM THAT MEASURES THE**
20 **LEARNING GAINS OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT TOWARDS ACHIEVING**
21 **MASTERY OF THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE STATE'S ADOPTED CURRICULA**
22 **OR THE COMMON CORE CURRICULA; AND**

23 **C. AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, A STATEWIDE,**
24 **STANDARDIZED, END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT THAT IS ALIGNED WITH AND**
25 **THAT MEASURES EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT'S SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF**
26 **THE STATE'S ADOPTED GOVERNMENT CURRICULA;**

27 **[(3)] (IV)** Each public school shall establish as the basis for its
28 assessment of its needs, project goals and objectives that are in keeping with the goals
29 and objectives established by its county board and the State Board;

30 **[(4)] (V)** With the assistance of its county board, the State Board, and
31 the State Superintendent, each public school shall develop programs to meet its needs
32 on the basis of the priorities it sets;

33 **[(5)] (VI)** Evaluation programs shall be developed at the same time to
34 determine if the goals and objectives are being met; and

1 ~~[(6)]~~ (VII) A reevaluation of programs, goals, and objectives shall be
2 undertaken regularly.

3 (c) National standardized testing may not be the only measure for
4 evaluating educational accountability.

5 (d) The Department shall assist each county board to establish an education
6 accountability program by providing:

7 (1) Guidelines for development and implementation of the program by
8 the county boards; and

9 (2) Assistance and coordination where it is needed and requested by
10 the county boards.

11 (e) The State Superintendent shall send the Governor and, subject to §
12 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly a report each January
13 that includes:

14 (1) Documentation of the progress of the Department, the county
15 boards, and each public school in this State towards their respective goals and
16 objectives; and

17 (2) Recommendations for legislation that the State Board and the
18 State Superintendent consider necessary to improve the quality of education in this
19 State.

20 (f) On the recommendation of the State Superintendent, the State Board
21 shall include in its annual budget request the funds it considers necessary to carry out
22 the provisions of this section.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if after the 2014–2015
24 school year, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Social
25 Studies Advisory Council, determines that the middle school grade band assessment
26 does not adequately measure the skills and knowledge set forth in the State’s adopted
27 social studies curricula, the State Department of Education shall develop a State
28 specific assessment to be implemented in the 2016–2017 school year.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 July 1, 2012.